Purchase of power from Bangladesh

†1482. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import power from Bangladeh;

(b) whether Bangladesh has show interest in exporting power to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken to import power to meet growing demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Preliminary discussions have been held at commercial level for setting up inter-connections with Bangladesh and initial exchange of power of the order of 150 MW. The growing demand of power can be met to some extent through import of power from neighbouring countries. Power is already being exchanged with Nepal and Bhutan.

Scheme for conversion of wasteland into cultivable land

†1483. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a scheme, at national level, to make cultivable the wasteland lying in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the wasteland available in the country, before, formulating the scheme; and

(d) if so, the total quantity of such land and State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Department of Land Resources (the erstwhile Department of Wastelands Development) in the Ministry of Rural Development has the mandate to develop wasteland in non-forest areas aimed at checking land

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

degradation, putting such wastelands in the country to sustainable use and increasing bio-mass availability, specially fuelwood and fodder.

Wastelands are degraded lands which are currently under-utilised and are deteriorating for lack of appropriate water and soil managment or on account of natural causes. Therefore, agricultural operations are generally not possible on such land at the first stage of development. The Department of Land Resources has the mandate to develop wastelands rather than to convert wastelands into cultivable lands. It is implementing a major scheme *viz.* Integarated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) for development of nonforest wastelands on watershed basis. However, the details of such degraded lands brought under cultivation through some of the Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Sector schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) in the country upto 31.3.1999 are given as under:—

1. Reclamation of Alkali Soil 5.28 lakh ha.

2. Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas 0.30 lakhs ha.

(c) and (d) There have been various estimates of the total extent of wastelands. However the Scientific estimate based on Remote Sensing data, conducted by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Department of Space, Government of India, Hyderabad, the total wasteland was estimated to be 23.91 million ha. as estimated on 1:50,000 scale in the year 1993 in respect of 146 districts in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Annexure.

Statement

Wastelands area of 146 Districts in India

Areas in Hectares

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of distt. covered	Total Wasteland area in districts covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	36,30,476
2.	Assam	2	8,67,969
3.	Bihar	9	8,65,265

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of distt. covered	Total Wasteland area in districts covered
4.	Gujarat	10	16,22,500
5.	Haryana	5	1,12,053
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3	5,05,056
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	6,93,560
8.	Karnataka	8	11,83,317
9.	Kerala	6	92,300
10.	Maharashtra	10	25,60,724
11.	Madhya Pradesh	18	28,22,982
12.	Manipur	2	2,65,706
13.	Nagaland	3	3,69,454
14.	Orissa	7	12,03,452
15.	Punjab	3	30,947
16.	Rajastahan	12	45,56,194
17.	Tamil Nadu	8	11,92,517
18.	Uttar Pradesh	22	11,23,672
19.	West Bengal	3	2,11,216
	TOTAL	146	2,39,09,388

IAY Funds to Andhra Pradesh

1484. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted and the expenditure incurred in Andhra Pradesh under Indira Awaas Yojana during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that the amount allotted for a house is quite insufficient in view of the hike in the prices of building material; and

(c) if so, the steps taken for increased allotment per house?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The amount allotted under Indira Awaas Yojana during the last 3 years for Andhra Praesh is Rs. 327.64 crores (Centre+State). As per information made available by the government of Andhra Pradesh,